GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3144
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
INDO FRENCH BILATERAL RELATIONS
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether India and France held top-level consultations in Paris on December 16, 2002;

(b) If so, whether the Indian Foreign Secretary held a meeting with his French counter-part;

(c) If so, whether this was the 12th meeting between the two foreign secretaries;

(d) If so, the details of the deliberations held between the two countries and the outcome thereof;

(e) Whether the seventh round of Indo-French strategic dialogue is still going on; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) The 8th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and France at Foreign Secretary level, took place on 16-17 December 2002 in Paris. Both sides reviewed bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern. The French side was fully sensitised to our core concerns, including on the continuation of cross border terrorism.

(e)&(f) The Ninth round of Indo-French Strategic Dialogue was held on 6th January 2003 in New DelhiIndia and France discussed bilateral, regional and global security issues of mutual concern.